



Citizen Corps Score

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A Monthly Publication for Indiana Citizen Corps Councils Their Partners and Affiliates

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National Citizen Corps Highlights Ten Successful Councils Around the Country

C. Suzanne Mencer, Director of the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness within the Department of Homeland Security, today announced new resources for Citizen Corps Councils available on the Citizen Corps website. Ten communities from around the country provide their shared view of how to start a Citizen Corps Council and profile their own activities. The profiles provide case history on developing, implementing, and sustaining a Citizen Corps Council and include on-line links to supporting materials. These ten councils are Arlington County (VA), Belvidere (IL), Fresno (CA), Harris County (TX), Kansas City (MO), King County (WA), Lancaster (PA), Orlando (FL), Southern AZ (AZ), Tulsa (OK).

This information can be viewed at http://www.citizencorps.gov/councils/resources_councils.shtm

Indiana Citizen Corps Council Holds Grantee Orientation

The Indiana State Citizen Corps Councils held a Grantee orientation for all councils receiving funding this year on Friday June 25th. The day consisted of background information on Citizen Corps and its programs (Neighborhood Watch (NW), Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Fire Corps (FC), and Community Emergency Response Teams (C.E.R.T.)), contract guidelines, etc. The day finished with presentations from representatives about C.E.R.T, VIPS, and MRC. If you would like to learn more about starting a Citizen Corps, or how to go about applying for funding, please contact the ICCSV staff at iccsv@state.in.us

Neighborhood Watch (NW) – New Florida Law to Protect NW Participants

One of the greatest hindrances to involvement in Neighborhood Watch (NW) groups is the fear that is too often associated with it. In communities throughout the country, NW volunteers have fallen prey to intimidation and harassment from those who have a vested interest in attempting to undermine their crime prevention efforts.

However, recently approved legislation in Florida seeks to change that for NW volunteers in the state. The first of its kind, the basic premise behind this landmark law is to protect those who have made a commitment to protecting the communities in which they live. Until recently, there was no law or statute of any kind designed to protect NW volunteers from threats and other forms of harassment. In fact, police could only make an arrest after a crime was actually committed. However, the Neighborhood Watch Bill, recently signed into law in the state of Florida, has changed that for NW participants there. The law, which prohibits the harassment of a participant of a neighborhood crime watch program, classifies harassment of a NW participant as a misdemeanor of the first degree. Harassment under the law includes threatening or intimidating a member of a NW when that person is engaged in, or traveling to or from, a NW program or activity or when that person is participating in an ongoing criminal investigation. To read more about this story, please visit http://www.usaonwatch.org/resource/neighborhood_watch/news_article.aspx?aid=211

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) – Selection and Management Part 2

In addition to an application and the interview, you may consider additional screening including:

- A criminal background check
- A reference check
- Fingerprinting
- Drug testing

Sample documents referenced here appear in the VIPS Online Resource Guide at:

<http://www.policevolunteers.org/law/resources.htm>

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) – Assessing the Local Situation

Once you have an idea of all the components that likely will affect the operations of your MRC unit, you may find it useful to organize them into a rough plan. A plan doesn't have to be anything elaborate to begin. Some people use white boards or flip charts to brainstorm. Other people type lists or outlines. And still others work best with more visual diagrams, like flow charts, that show the different elements of their plan. All of this can become material that you incorporate into a more formal document down the road.

Developing a Rough Plan: Action Steps

- Sketch out a plan that touches on all the key points. You can always revise it. Include a mission statement, objectives, an action plan, an organizational chart, and a budget.
- Make a preliminary list of potential response partners and other organizations that might be willing to champion your MRC. Who can you count on?
- Note any ongoing issues that will require advocacy (i. e., liability protection for volunteers, integrating MRC volunteers into existing systems, credential verification procedures, etc

Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T) – Developing Partnerships

In building these partnerships, it is important to determine how the features of the CERT program can benefit the stakeholders and the community. Potential benefits include:

- Better individual and family preparedness,
- Increased neighborhood and workplace involvement with public safety,
- Support of emergency management and its agencies,
- Businesses investment in community safety, or
- The positive perception that the government is reaching out to help the people it serves, etc.

Every member of the community—from private citizens to businesses to government officials—holds a vital stake in preparedness and response. As you build partnerships, you will gain knowledge and a better understanding of the risks affecting your community and the roles that CERT volunteers can play. Even better, you will identify and build resources as you meet knowledgeable and enthusiastic people, gain ideas, and obtain financial assistance. More information can be found at http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/CERT/new_CERT/index.htm

Tips for Proposal Writing

Proposal writing is just one step in the grantseeking process, and it is not the most important step. Far more time should be spent developing the program or project and researching and cultivating appropriate funders than on the actual preparation of a proposal.

Some tips for starting the proposal writing process:

- Commit your ideas to paper
- Thoroughly describe your program
- State the goals and objectives of your program
- Construct a timeline
- Estimate costs for staff, materials, and equipment
- Plan for the evaluation of your program
- Write job descriptions for your program staff

Elements of a Proposal:

- **Summary** — clearly and concisely summarizes the request
- **Introduction** — describes the agency's qualifications or "credibility"
- **Statement of Need** — documents the needs to be met or the problems to be solved
- **Objectives** — establishes the benefits of the project in measurable terms
- **Methods** — describes the activities to achieve the desired results
- **Evaluation** — A plan to determine the degree to which objectives were met and procedures were followed
- **Future funding** — A plan for continuation beyond the grant period and/or availability of other resources
- **Budget** — clearly delineates costs to be met by the grant

For more information on proposal writing or to find some potential funders, check out <http://www.foundationcenter.org/>.

Local Council Updates

Vanderburgh County – Is continuing to travel around the county with Evansville's new mayor at Town Hall Meetings. These meetings give the Citizen Corps Council an opportunity to inform everyone about Citizen Corps, and emergency preparedness, and are now up to seven C.E.R.T teams. **Spencer County** – Has started presenting outreach booths at upcoming fairs that will show videos, have CPR and AED equipment displayed, and C.E.R.T members in uniform doing cribbing and lifting, as well as emergency medical response. **Monroe County** – Has just trained its first C.E.R.T and is starting to train C.E.R.T members at the Ivy Tech in Monroe County. Returning in August, thanks to Citizen Corps, Monroe County Citizen Corps Council will have 800 Citizen Corps student volunteers. **Allen County** – Medical Reserve Corps has been "called up". A database of 270 doctors and 440 nurses have been called upon to help assist with a TB outbreak in Ft. Wayne. **Elkhart County** – Has been very successful with their Citizen Corps Public Service Announcements, which have helped educate the county about what Citizen Corps is, and how individuals can get involved. **Tippecanoe County** – Citizen Corps has received a "retired" ambulance, which has been decorated with the Citizen Corps logo, and is being used to house training and educational materials, as well as serving as a moving billboard. **Marion County** – Has trained its first C.E.R.T at the city-county building. **St. Joseph County** – Is using some of its Homeland Security volunteers to go around the county and do community needs assessments. **Scott County** – Is working on having over 5,000 Emergency Preparedness Handbooks distributed throughout the county. **Posey County** – Has trained two C.E.R.Ts and is looking to adopt the emergency flipcharts that are being distributed by Spencer County.

Publications/Resources

Measuring the Economic Cost of Terrorist Attacks

http://www.icfconsulting.com/Markets/Homeland-Security/doc_files/costs_terrorist.pdf

Emergency Preparedness Tips for U.S. Businesses

http://www.icfconsulting.com/Markets/Homeland-Security/doc_files/Emergency_Preparedness.pdf

Upcoming Events

July is National Ice Cream Month
July is National Cellphone Courtesy Month
July is National Anti-Boredom Month

July 05 Observation of Independence Day (ICCSV offices will be closed)
 July 25 Parent's Day

Sun Exposure Quick Tips

- Schedule outdoor activities before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m.
- Monitor the daily UV Index forecasts for your area (at www.epa.gov or in newspapers) and plan indoor activities on days of **high** sun intensity.
- Teach children how to identify and find good sources of shade.
- Keep infants and small children in the shade when outdoors.
- Plan trips to parks and places where adequate shade is available.
- Plant trees that provide maximum shade on school or child care center property.
- Purchase portable shade structures such as umbrellas, tents and tarps.
- Build permanent shade structures such as porches, picnic shelters and fabric shade canopies.
- Include shade covering in the design of playground equipment and recreational areas.

Keep in Touch!

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